

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 819

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, AF, CB

SUBJ: JOBERT AND FAURE VISITS TO USSR

1. ACCORDING FRENCH EMBOFF, POLITICAL ASPECTS OF JOBERT JULY 26-28 VISIT TO USSR WERE FAIRLY STANDARD STUFF. IN TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR MEETING WITH GROMYKO IN MOSCOW JULY 26, CONVERSATION (AT FRENCH REQUEST) CONCENTRATED ON ASIA -- A SUBJECT WHICH GOT SHORT SHRIFT AT POMPIDOU-BREZHNEV SUMMIT. ON CAMBODIA SOVIETS SHOWED NO APPETITE FOR ASSISTING TALKS BETWEEN TWO CAMBODIAN SIDES, PREFERRING TO "WAIT AND SEE" -- PRESUMABLY UNTIL AFTER AUGUST 15 BOMBING CUTOFF. ON AFGHANISTAN, GROMYKO ASSUMED SAME LOW PROFILE AS SOVIET PRESS ACCOUNTS, CITING CLOSE AFGHAN-SOVIET RELATIONS SINCE TIME OF LENIN AND SOVIET PRINCIPLE OF NONINTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. BREZHNEV'S RECEPTION OF JOBERT FOR TALKS IN CRIMEA, ACCORDING TO FRENCH EMBOFF (WHO DID NOT MAKE TRIP), WAS PURELY OPTICAL FROM SOVIET VIEWPONT -- AN EFFORT TO
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DEMONSTRATE THAT SOVIETS HAVE NO INTENTION OF DEALING WITH

US OVER HEADS OF THRID COUNTRIES. BREZHNEV MADE THIS POINT SPECIFICALLY TO JOBERT. IN FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE STANDARD POSITINS WERE EXCHANGED ON MBFR AND CSCE. BREZHNEV, FOLLOWING FRENCH PRESENTATION OF UNWILLINGNESS TO JOIN MBFR TALKS, SAID FRANCE WOULD ALWAYS BE WELCOME AS TALKS PROGRESSED. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION ON CSCE, EMBOFF SAID THERE WAS NO SIGN OF SOVIET FLEXIBILITY ON HUMAN CONTACTS ISSUE.

3. EMBOFF CHARACTERIZED FAURE VISIT JULY 19-29, AS REALLY TWO VISITS: FIRST, A LONG-OWED RETURN VISIT BY A FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION AND, SECOND, AN ATTEMPT BY FAURE TO NURTURE HIS OWN PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS. IN SERVICE OF LATTER AIM, REST OF DELEGATION WAS PACKED OFF TO SIBERIA AND UZBEKISTAN, WHILE FAURE STAYED IN MOSCOW AND MET BREZHNEV, GROMYKO, AND FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEV. FRENCH EMBASSY HERE NOT BRIEFED BY FAURE ON SUBSTANCE OF THESE CONVERSATIONS.
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